

Guidry Seeking Pact Rise

By MURRAY CHASS

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FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., March 6— Ron Guidry, a brilliant pitcher who always has spoken louder with his actions on the field than his words off the field, quietly ignited today what could become a financial feud with the Yankees.

Neither Guidry nor his lawyer, John Schneider, ranted and raved; they spoke softly and reasonably. However, they made it clear that Guidry wants to discuss an extension of his contract and will be most unhappy if the Yankees do not respond.

A year ago, Schneider said, the Yankees offered Guidry a five-year extension worth \$3 million, but only half of that sum would be guaranteed. Now, the lawyer said, the left-hander's asking price will be \$4.8 million for an additional five years.

"We're not setting any deadlines," Schneider said by telephone from Lafayette, La., his tone devoid of threats. "We will respond to steps the Yankees take or don't take. If the Yankees don't respond accordingly, we will have to evaluate our position."

\$125,000 Base Salary

"Unless the Yankees do something about Ron's contract now, if they take the position they'll negotiate at the time of his free agency, it doesn't matter if they offer \$5 million or \$10 million; Ron will not sign with the Yankees."

The 29-year-old pitcher from Louisiana has two years remaining on a three-year contract extension he signed following the 1977 season, the one before he won 25 games and lost three.

The contract calls for a base salary of \$125,000 plus an additional \$25,000 in insurance benefits for an annual total of \$150,000, making him the lowest-paid regular among the Yankee millionaires. By comparison, Fred Stanley, a little-used reserve infielder, earns about \$130,000 a season. Guidry has a won-lost record of 59-18 in the last three years.

Both Guidry and Schneider stress that Guidry wants to play the rest of his career with the Yankees. They acknowledge that he has two years before he can become a free agent, but they want to settle his future now.

"I'm giving them a chance to sign me for a good while," Guidry said, speaking in his quiet way, "but they don't act like they want me. It's like they're saying 'We don't know if you're a good enough pitcher; we'll have to see.'"

Effect on Pitching

"You don't want something like this hanging over your head all the time, not knowing what's going to happen. If there's one little doubt in your mind, that could affect your pitching. You don't want it to, but down deep inside if you give it an inch, the whole thing might run away from you."

George Steinbrenner, who was in camp today, did not speak with Guidry. "He doesn't know I'm in camp yet," Guidry said, watching the owner greet other players.

Later, Steinbrenner said that last year the Yankees made an extension offer "we felt was fair, but they said they were going to wait and go for free agency."

"Now John's coming back and saying they want to talk," the owner said of Schneider. "I think he made a bad business judgment for his client. We haven't avoided Guidry at all, but they can't keep coming in like it's a swinging door. We will sit down with them at the first opportunity, but they have two years and we have other guys coming up now."

Schneider said Guidry would have agreed to the \$3 million extension a year ago if all the money had been guaranteed. Meanwhile, he said, players were getting guaranteed contracts worth close to \$1 million a year.

Annoyed After Relief Stint

At the end of last season, the lawyer said, he proposed a five-year, \$4 million extension. "George said it was a little high," Schneider related, "and he'd take it under advisement."

One step that annoyed Guidry, Schneider said, was the Yankees' failure to discuss Guidry's financial status last season, when the pitcher volunteered for relief duty. Schneider went to New York to ask the Yankees to buy a disability insurance policy for Guidry, but Al Rosen, then the president, said Steinbrenner wouldn't let him discuss anything about the contract.

So, the lawyer added, Guidry borrowed \$42,000 from Manufacturers Hanover and purchased his own policy, worth \$1.25 million from Lloyd's of London.